

Serial No.: 10/054,477
Docket No.: R0052CIP
Amendment Dated June 9, 2005
Responsive to the Office Action dated March 11, 2005

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action, claims 1-83 were pending. Claims 1-83 are canceled herewith, and claims 84-115 are added. Therefore, claims 84-115 are presently pending.

5 Invention restriction

Claims 1-83 were subject to the following restriction:

Group I: Claims 1-17, 42, 43-53, 57-63 and 80-83, drawn to a dissecting endoscope with a blunt transparent tip, classified in class 600, subclass 129.

10 Group II: Claims 18-41, 53-56 and 78-79, drawn to a cannula with a surgical effector for vessel harvesting, classified in class 600, subclass 114.

Group III: Claims 64-66, drawn to an endoscope with a utilization device, classified in class 600, subclass 104.

15 Group IV: Claims 67-77, drawn to an endoscope with a cannula, classified in class 604, subclass 164.11.

Applicants elect without traverse the invention of Group I drawn to a dissecting endoscope with a blunt transparent tip. Claims 1-83 have been canceled in favor of new claims 84-115.

20 Please note that support for some of the claims added herein, and in particular claims 84 and 99, derive from the specification of the parent application, Serial No. 09/413,012, filed October 5, 1999, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/133,136, filed August 12, 1998. The present application is a continuation-in-part of the parent application, whose specification was incorporated herein by reference. The text and drawings of the parent application can be actually 25 added to the present specification if deemed necessary.

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Species restriction

The invention of Group I was subject to the following species restriction:

Species A: a dissecting endoscope with a tissue dilator having faceted surfaces

5 (Figs. 1b, 3a-f, 4)

Species B: a dissecting endoscope with the distal end of the tissue dilator displaced proximally from the tip (Figs. 2b-c)

Species C: a dissecting endoscope with a press-lock or snap-fit attachment structure (Figs. 6a-b)

10 Species D: a dissecting endoscope with a lever-actuated locking device (Fig. 6c)

Accordingly, Applicants elect without traverse Species A shown in Figs. 1b, 3a-f, 4.

Claims 84-85, 88-100, and 103-115 read on Species A. Please note that claims 84 and 99 are generic to the identified Species.

15 Claims 86 and 101 in Species C are withdrawn pending allowance of a generic base claim.
Claims 87 and 102 in Species D are withdrawn pending allowance of a generic base claim.

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Respectfully submitted,



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